

1 **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

2 1. A method for deriving recovery income within a distribution supply chain comprising a
3 plurality of transactional events facilitating the conveyance of said goods from a supplier to an
4 end recipient, comprising:

5 (a) establishing a plurality of compliance rules governing transactional events within said
6 supply chain;

7 (b) defining a monetary penalty to be imposed on a party to a transactional event upon
8 non-compliance with each said compliance rule;

9 (c) codifying said compliance rules within a computer-based system;

10 (d) monitoring said supply chain to detect non-compliance events;

11 (e) providing information regarding detected non-compliance events to said
12 computer-based system;

13 (f) automatically generating, from said computer-based system, non-compliance
14 charge-backs to be communicated to those parties within the supply chain upon
15 whom said monetary penalties are to be imposed in accordance with said
16 compliance rules.

17 2. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

18 (g) automatically generating reports of non-compliance events.

19 3. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said step (d) of monitoring said supply
20 chain comprises performing a directed audit of transactional events in said supply chain to
21 detect violations of said compliance rules.

22 4. A system for monitoring compliance with a plurality of rules governing transactional
23 events within a supply chain, comprising:

24 a computer processing unit having a data store upon which at least one file encoding
25 said plurality of rules is stored;

26 at least one input device for providing transactional information to said processing unit;

27 wherein said processing unit is adapted to execute a process whereby said transactional
28 information is assessed for compliance with said plurality of rules;

29 and wherein said processing unit is further adapted to automatically generate
30 non-compliance charge-backs upon detection of a transaction failure in which at least one of
31 said plurality of rules is violated in a given transaction.

1 5. A method of commercial distribution of computer software, where the execution of said
2 software results in generation of a recovery income stream, comprising, on the part of a
3 distributor of said software:

4 providing a computer-readable copy of said computer software for execution by a
5 participant in a supply chain;

6 charging said participant a software license fee proportional to said recovery income
7 stream.

8 6. A method in accordance with claim 5, further comprising, on the part of the distributor,
9 providing computer hardware suitable for executing said software.

10 7. A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein said software tracks compliance with
11 rules imposed upon participants in a distribution supply chain.

12 8. A method of monitoring and enforcing compliance with rules imposed by a participant in
13 a distribution supply chain upon transactional events occurring in said supply chain, comprising:

14 (a) for each transactional event to occur, providing transactional information concerning
15 such event to a computer-based system having said rule codified therein;

16 (b) assessing said transactional information to identify violations of said rules;

17 (c) for each violation detected in step (b), automatically generating from said
18 computer-based system a transaction chargeback reflecting a penalty to be
19 imposed upon a party to said transactional event responsible for said violation.

20 9. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said step (a) of providing transactional
21 information comprises entry of said information using a computer keyboard.

22 10. A method in accordance with claim 8, wherein said step (a) of providing transactional
23 information comprises transmission of scanned information transmitted by radio-frequency.